

Story 1889 (1971 Tape 11

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ince

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The Ant Who Saved a Man from Hell

There was once an ant who fell into some water. He struggled and struggled to get out of the water but was unable to do so. A passerby who saw the ant struggling bent down and with his finger rescued the ant

Time passed until both the ant and the man died and went to the other world. There the ant saw some demons dragging the man toward hell. Approaching the demons, the ant asked, "Where are you taking that man?"

The demons answered, ""This man committed many sins while he lived in the world above, and we are taking him to hell where he will be punished for those sins.

The ant said, "This man once did a good deed in my behalf, and I shall never forget that. Take me to hell instead of him and burn me."

But the demons refused to accept this suggestion

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They said, "That is not possible. You are an ant and you have no sins. This man committed many sins

The ant then prayed. He pleaded, "O Allah, give me the strength to take this man away from the demons and bring him into Your presence. Your justice and mercy are plentiful. These demons will not forgive him, but You may do so.

Allah gave the ant so much strength at that moment that it was able to snatch the man from the hands of the demons. The ant then took him straight to heaven and said, "O Allah!"

"Ant, what is it that you wish?"

"O Allah, You are this man's God as well as being mine. You are the Creator of everything, and You are the ruler of the whole universe. I have brought this man into Your presence because Your justice and mercy are plentiful. Please forgive his sins

do you wish to have him forgiven?"

"O Allah, this man once performed a good act in my behalf."

"What did he do, little ant?"

"I had fallen into the water, and I was about to

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drown. This man came along at just that time and rescued me. I shall never forget his act of kindness

"You are just an ant, a creature so small that this man could rescue you with just the tip of his finger. Where did you find the strength to carry him here?"

"The strength is Yours. I asked for strength to wrest this man from the hands of the demons, and You gave it to me. With that same strength I carried him here."

"Tell me again what it is that you wish from me now?"

"O Allah, I am asking You to forgive the sins of this man and have the demons burn me in hell in his place."

"You are only a little ant, but you are grateful. You have never forgotten this man's kindness to you. I am your God as well as his, and I welcome you both to remain here in heaven."